

## CLAIMS

1. A steering apparatus comprising:
  - a steering shaft having an end portion coupled to a steering member;
  - a first housing for rotatably supporting the steering shaft;
  - and
  - a second housing engaged with the first housing via two impact energy absorbing rings formed separately from each other in an axial direction, so as to be relatively movable in an axial direction,wherein one of the first housing and the second housing has first and second impact energy absorbing protrusions which are projected from positions between the impact energy absorbing rings separately from each other in an axial direction and contact with circumferential surface of the other of the first housing and the second housing.
2. The steering apparatus according to Claim 1, comprising:
  - a plurality of first impact energy absorbing protrusions arranged separately from each other in a circumferential direction;
  - and
  - a plurality of second impact energy absorbing protrusions arranged separately from each other in a circumferential direction,wherein one of the impact energy absorbing rings has:

a ring portion to contact with an end face of one of the first housing and the second housing; and

a plurality of plate pieces disposed continuously with the ring portion separately from each other in a circumferential direction at intervals corresponding to the impact energy absorbing protrusions.

3. The steering apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein an external diameter of a portion of the ring portion where no plate piece is provided is equal to or smaller than an external diameter of the second housing an end face of which is to contact with the ring portion.

4. The steering apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein an internal diameter of a portion of the ring portion where no plate piece is provided is equal to or larger than an internal diameter of the first housing an end face of which is to contact with the ring portion.

5. The steering apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the plate pieces have such a length that the plate pieces pass an axial position of one of the first and second impact energy absorbing protrusions.

6. The steering apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein an impact energy absorbing ring which does not have the ring portion

and the plate pieces has:

a ring portion arranged between the first housing and the second housing;

an edge portion formed continuously with an end of said ring portion to project outwardly or inwardly so as to contact with an end face of one of the first housing and the second housing; and

a plurality of plate pieces projected from an end of said ring portion opposite to the edge portion separately from each other in a circumferential direction at intervals corresponding to the impact energy absorbing protrusions.